

REMARKS

Initially, in accordance with Applicants' duty to provide a statement of the substance of an interview, Applicants participated in an Examiner-initiated telephone interview with Examiner Dang on February 22, 2005. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Dang for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview. During that interview, the Examiner indicated that the above-identified claim amendments would be sufficient to overcome the rejections of record. Applicants agreed to file this Amendment to place the application in condition for allowance in lieu of sending the application for decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

In the final Office Action, dated April 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 21, 22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; rejected claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-18, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Khosrowpour et al. (US Patent No. 5,734,329); rejected claims 10, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Khosrowpour et al.; rejected claims 23, 24, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dickson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,644,700); and rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dickson et al. The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 4 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 22 are allowable.

By this Amendment, Applicants propose amending claims 1, 17, 21, 23, and 26 consistent with the Examiner's suggestions in the telephone interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-29.

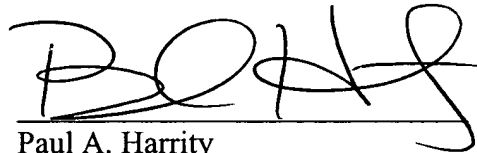
If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

If the Examiner determines that the rejections set forth in the final Office Action are still valid, Applicants are satisfied to send this application to the Board of Appeals and Interferences with or without the amendments contained herein.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'PAUL A. HARRITY', written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Harrity
Reg. No. 39,574

Date: March 4, 2005

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